

September 2013



#### Topics for September

- Emergency Loans
- 2013 County Committee Elections
- Farm Safety
- Succession in Interest
- CREP & Continuous CRP Available
- NAP-Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

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## Washtenaw/Wayne County FSA Updates

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### Washtenaw/Wayne County FSA Office

7203 Jackson Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-9506  
Phone: (734) 761-8789 ext. 2  
Fax: (734) 662-1686

**County Executive Director:**  
Linda Rector

**Program Technicians:**  
Lori Maulbetsch  
Lori Terreault

**County Committee Members:**  
Luther Schaible - Chair  
G Pete Elliott - Vice Chair  
Joyce Bujak - Member  
Howard Sias - Member

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Michael Jordon

**Farm Loan Technician:**  
Brenda Andrews

Farm Loan Phone:  
(517) 263-7400 ext. 2

**Next County Committee  
Meeting:** December 5, 2013 at  
9:00 a.m.

### Emergency Loans

A designation has been issued for Washtenaw and Wayne counties making Emergency Loans available for producers who have experienced at least a 30% loss in one crop due to frost that occurred between April 1, 2013 and June 19, 2013. If you experienced a loss as a result of the frost during the incident period and would like more information, please contact Michael Jordon at (517) 263-7400 or e-mail [Michael.jordon@mi.usda.gov](mailto:Michael.jordon@mi.usda.gov)

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

### Loan Uses

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices.

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## 2013 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups.

County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center is Dec. 2, 2013.

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## Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

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## Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these successions-in-interest to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

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## **CREP & Continuous CRP Available**

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices.

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## **NAP-Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program**

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Sales closing dates through the end of the year are as follows:

September 30, 2013 – Alfalfa, Winter Barley, Birdsfoot/Trefoil, Canola, Rye, Speltz, Canola, Clover forage, grass, and Mixed Forage,

October 1, 2013 - Chestnuts

November 20, 2013 – Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cane Berries, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Rhubarb and Strawberries

December 1, 2013 – Honey and Maple Sap

If Crop Insurance for the Crop is not available in your County you may obtain NAP coverage on that crop.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).